

	<b>CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY</b> Office of Legislative Counsel Washington, D. C. 20505 Telephone: <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>
	<i>Hase</i> <b>6 January 1976</b>
<b>TO: Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel Committee on Armed Services House of Representatives</b>	
<p><b>Frank:</b></p> <p><b>Per our conversation.</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 250px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <p><b>Acting Legislative Counsel</b></p> <p><b>Atts.</b></p>	

FORM 1533 OBSOLETE  
6-68 PREVIOUS  
EDITIONS

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24 DEC 1975

Honorable Carl Albert  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Recent actions in the House of Representatives demonstrating the lack of protection afforded sensitive information leaves me greatly concerned about the extent to which the Director of Central Intelligence should continue to provide to the appropriate committees of Congress information of a sensitive nature from the standpoint of our national security. I am equally concerned with respect to such information already in the custody of various committees of the Congress.

As you know, under the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the Congress placed upon the Director of Central Intelligence responsibility "for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure."

I am aware that this matter was a subject of concern to the House Select Committee on Committees in the 93rd Congress. The report on the Committee Reform Amendments of 1974 strongly suggested "that the House must take the initiative to create an orderly set of rules which govern the receipt, use, storage, and dissemination of national security information and intelligence," (House Report 93-916, page 96). This conclusion was preceded by the observation on page 95 that, "[t]he hard fact is that if the highest officials of the executive branch who collect, interpret, and control sensitive information believe that sharing it with Congress will lead to its public disclosure,



they will not make it available, even when committees go into executive session to receive such information." Unfortunately, no action was taken on that suggestion.

Since this is obviously a serious problem, I would appreciate your passing it to the appropriate committees of the House for their consideration and comment.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

W. E. Colby  
Director

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

18 December 1975

Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Foreign Assistance  
and Economic Policy  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Knowing that you share my concern over disclosures which may be harmful to this Agency's foreign intelligence mission, I am writing with reference to the story by Marilyn Berger in the 17 December 1975 final edition of The Washington Post which carries a number of details from the testimony of Mr. William Nelson, the Agency's Deputy Director for Operations, before your Subcommittee yesterday.

The leaks from yesterday's session were made by someone not associated with this Agency who decided on their own what is and what is not sensitive. While it is recognized that there can be honest differences of opinion concerning what constitutes sensitive intelligence information, the National Security Act of 1947 explicitly holds the Director of Central Intelligence responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

I am aware of the strong feelings concerning the general subject which was discussed and understand the natural tendencies for advocates to present facts which buttress their case. But I would be less than fair with you and the Senate unless I also reported the disconcerting effect of irresponsible leaks of information which I truly judge to be sensitive and which has occurred in the present case.



I indicated to Chairman Sparkman and Senator Case in a similar incident that publicity of this sort obviously casts serious doubts on my ability to provide sensitive information to the Foreign Relations Committee, its Subcommittees, and its staff. I am sending a copy of this letter to Chairman Sparkman and Senator Case as it adds to the previous expression of concern which is covered in my letter of 10 November 1975 also enclosed for your information. I would appreciate any suggestions you can provide me as to how information of this sensitive nature can be protected in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. E. Colby', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

W. E. Colby  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Honorable John Sparkman  
Honorable Clifford Case

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